

**VARIABILITY IN THE ADULT COLOUR FORMS OF  
*THECLINESTHES ALBOCINCTA* (WATERHOUSE, 1903)  
(LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE: POLYOMMATINAE)  
FROM COASTAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

A.M.P. STOLARSKI<sup>1</sup> and C.E. MEYER<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>PO Box 423, Tailem Bend, SA 5260 (Email: [roseberrynursery@bigpond.com](mailto:roseberrynursery@bigpond.com))

<sup>2</sup>29 Silky Oak Avenue, Moggill, Qld 4070 (Email: [cmameyer@bigpond.com](mailto:cmameyer@bigpond.com))

**Abstract**

The brown form of *Theclinessthes albocincta* (Waterhouse, 1903), previously known only from ‘inland form’ populations occurring in arid or semi-arid regions of Australia, is recorded from coastal South Australia for the first time.

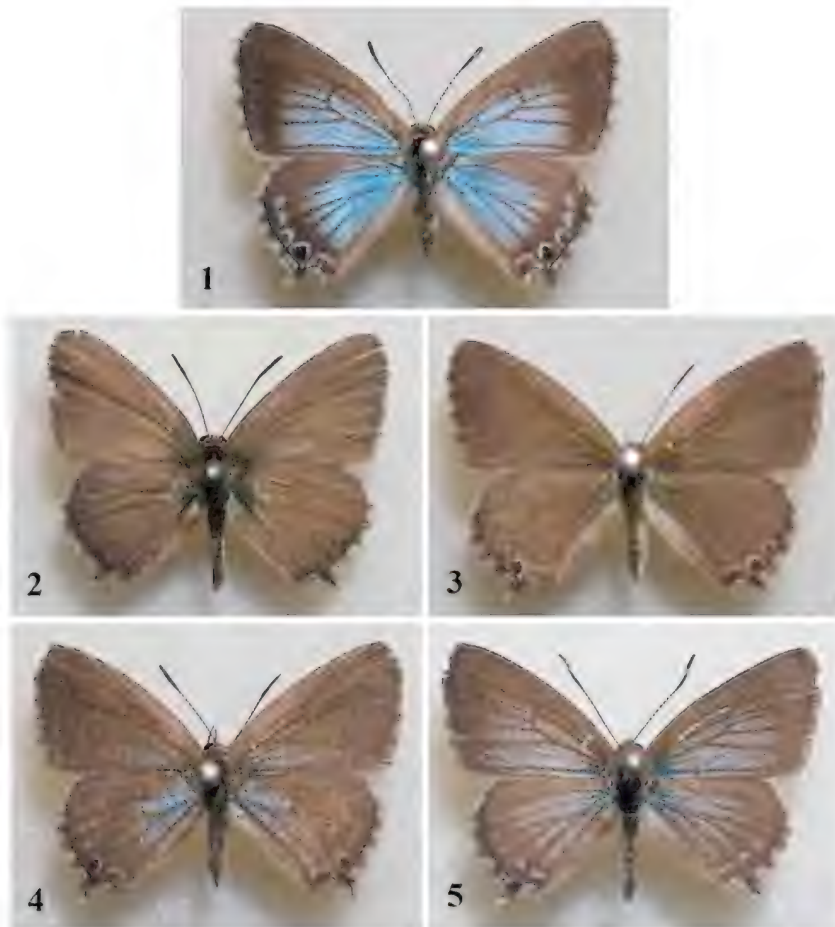
**Introduction**

*Theclinessthes albocincta* (Waterhouse, 1903) is endemic to Australia with a very wide but disjunct distribution (Common and Waterhouse 1981, Braby 2000). Braby (2000) recognised three forms of the butterfly, viz: the ‘eastern form’ recorded from Peak Downs near Emerald and 13 km west of Nebo (C.G. Miller pers. comm.) in central eastern Queensland; the ‘inland form’ recorded from the arid and semi-arid areas of Western Australia, Northern Territory, northwestern Victoria and central southwestern Queensland; and the ‘southern coastal form’ restricted to the coastal areas of South Australia.

All forms show seasonal variation but specimens of the southern coastal form and the eastern form can usually be separated from specimens of the inland form by having more extensive pale greyish blue scales on the upperside in both males and females (Braby 2000, Grund 2010). Grund (2010) noted that the blue form is only found in coastal areas and that a blue-brown hybrid population has been recorded from the Gawler Ranges, South Australia. To our knowledge, the brown form has not been recorded previously from southern coastal populations.

**Results and discussion**

On 21 February 2015, AMPS collected several eggs and larvae from *Adriana quadripartita* (Labill.) Muell. Arg. (Euphorbiaceae) growing in sandy areas near Meningie, South Australia. These were successfully reared by CEM in Brisbane, with 15 adults emerging between 22-31 March 2015. Of the 15 adults that emerged, nine (1 ♂, 8 ♀♀) were the greyish blue form (Fig. 1) typical of southern coastal populations, four (1 ♂, 3 ♀♀) were a brown form (Figs 2-3) with no greyish blue scales near the basal regions typical of inland populations, and the remaining two (2 ♀♀) showed intermediate colouration (Figs 4-5). Specimens of the brown form of the butterfly have also been reared or collected by the authors from Robe and from 6 km north of Malinong, in coastal South Australia.



**Figs 1-5.** Adult colour forms of *Theclinessthes albocincta* from Meningie, coastal South Australia: (1) typical blue form female; (2) brown form male; (3) brown form female; (4) intermediate female with minimal greyish blue basal scales; and (5) intermediate female with more greyish blue scales.

### References

- BRABY, M.F. 2000. *Butterflies of Australia: their identification, biology and distribution*. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne; xxvii + 976 pp.
- COMMON, I.F.B. and WATERHOUSE, D.F. 1981. *Butterflies of Australia*. Revised Edition. Angus and Robertson, Sydney; xiv + 682 pp.
- GRUND, R. 2010. South Australian butterflies data sheet, *Theclinessthes albocincta*. [Accessed 24 July 2015]. <[http://www.chariot.net.au/~rbg/albocincta\\_ds.htm](http://www.chariot.net.au/~rbg/albocincta_ds.htm)>